

Mother, baby safe after Temple Street fire

By Susanna Sheehan
Clipper Editor

On Monday, Duxbury's Old Colony Regional Emergency Call Center received a frantic 911 call from a new mother saying her house was on fire.

The call came into the regional dispatch center at the Duxbury Fire Department on Tremont Street at 12:23 p.m. from a location at 483 Temple St. at the corner of Franklin Street.

Duxbury Fire Captain Rob Reardon said dispatchers could hear a woman saying through sobs that there was a fire in her house but then the line went dead. He said the caller was on a cordless phone that lost its signal, but the dispatchers were able to use a system that has a caller press one for police, two for fire and three for EMS. The caller pressed two and the fire trucks screamed out of Ashdod station en route to the fire.

"The woman was in hysterics but all the dispatchers teamed up to calm her down," said Reardon. He commended dispatchers Matt Riggins, Chris O'Brien and the supervisor on duty Joe Crean for their ability to comfort the caller and send help.

The fire was in the second floor bedroom where the mother had been sleeping with her two-month-old daughter. She was awoken by the alarms from the smoke detector.

"When we arrived the mother and baby met them outside the house and firefighters stretched a hose line and quickly knocked down the fire," said Reardon. The Marshfield fire department came to the scene to assist and the Kingston Fire Department covered the station.

No one was injured.

The cause of the fire is thought to be electrical, said Reardon, adding there was a lot of damage to the house. He was unsure if the family was allowed to stay in the home afterward.

The working smoke detector probably saved the lives of both the mother and the baby, he said.

"This is a good example of how fire and smoke won't wake up someone when they're sleeping but a smoke detector will," said Reardon.